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Dated: February 4, 2004

Signature: Jeffrey K. Berger

(Jeffrey K. Berger)

Docket No.: 19036/37906  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Kazuhiko Yamashita et al.

Application No.: 10/031,561

Art Unit: 2841

Filed: October 25, 2001

Examiner: R. W. Gibson

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**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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FEB 12 2004

Technology Center 2600

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2003, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows. Applicants herewith petition for a one month extension of time to file this response, the extended period of response thereby being set to expire February 7, 2004.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.